The Standing Com^e of the Soc^y of Inq.

in presenting their Semi-Annual Report, would remark, by way of preface, that since the last Annual election they have experienced a change of personal identity in two of their members; Messrs Reeve & Lyon having withdrawn, and Messrs Taylor and ~~Hailey~~ Hoxley having been elected by the Board of Managers in their stead.

In presenting the state of affairs under their jurisdiction the Com^e would call the attention of the Society, in

§ 1. To The Reading Room. The No. of papers at present taken is. Daily; One. Semi Weekly; One. Weekly, Seventeen. Semi-Monthly; One. Monthly; one. Other publications, ~~Semi~~-Monthly; Eleven. Quarterly Six.

Total Amt paid for publications. $29.50
Subscription price of those presented — 63.00

Postage may be estimated at $30 to $40 per Ann^m. The expence is in part refunded by the sale of such papers as are not preserved. The following publications are preserved for binding; Papers. N. Y. Obs: Prot: Vindic: Bost: Rec: Presby^n: Watch^n of the So.: Periodicals. N. A. Rev: Quart. Reg: Miss. Her: Miss. Chron: Home Miss: African Repos: & the Four For. Quarterly Rev's:

A quantity of these, ~~embracing~~ comprising all the volumes that have become complete during the past half year, are now in the hands of the Binder.

The R. Room, with its tastefully-arranged Cabinet, continues to be the chief lion of the Semy — the only place about the establishment to which any one thinks of introducing strangers. Among the community whose property it is, its popularity also continues unabated. Whether it ~~Conduces~~ tributes as much to the promotion of the solid requisites of the student's intellectual character, as it does to the filling up of the lesser niches that might otherwise remain empty in the ~~Freestone~~ stone-house of knowledge; especially whether it is not needlessly made the grave of many precious hours — are questions not in the province of the Com^e to decide. In order to secure a ~~proper~~ due regard to the rights of property, it was found necessary early in the present Session, to admonish members of the Semy that the R. Room was the property of the Soc^y of Inq^y, and that habitual visiting it by others could only be tolerated as any other intrusion. And the admonition was responded to by the common sense and delicacy of those whom it concerned. But among the steady

patrons of our News department there are some, though we rejoice to say only a "large and respectable minority," whose idea of the division of labour seems to be that a part should pay for Conveniency, and others should use them. Of this class of Customers we have at present 10; Amount due from them, $12.75. We earnestly entreat them to give us, severally, before they leave the Seminary, their views of Sect. XVI; 10. Depredations on the property of the R. R. during the past half year, owing perhaps to some extra watchfulness on the part of the Com^e have been fewer than usual. We say it "more in sorrow than in anger," but we have found it necessary to increase our vigilance in order to prevent the movable property of the Room from — sudden disappearance. During the period covered by our present Report, we have had to replace one No. of the "Presbyterian," (mutilated so as to be unfit for binding) and one No. of the N. A. Rev. The last at an expence of $1.25. Some more trifling peccadilloes we need not specify. We grieve that it is so, but the fact that the property of a Society of prospective ministers of the gospel, disappears, without strict surveillance, & locks and keys, places, in a strong light, the necessity of regarding men in our dealings with them, as they are, not as they should be.

Before leaving this department of our concerns, we will take this opportunity to premonish the Society that should a proposal come before them hereafter, through the Bd of Mang^rs to remove from their R Room, the Colossal Cast iron fabric now so conspicuous there, and to substitute for it a neat & tasteful Copy of the Olmsted Stove; it will be eminently becoming them to make that proposal a law. The articles of impeachment against the fabric aforesaid will be based mainly upon the prodigality of its Consumption of fuel; nearly twice the quantity being necessary for it, that it would be required by one of the kind suggested.

§ 2. Treasurer's Department, and Financial Concerns.

Under this head it is not necessary to anticipate the particulars that will properly be laid before the Society in the Ann: Rep: of the Treas^r. The Com^e have examined the a/c^s of the Treas^r and find them correct. Amt of receipts since the last Ann: Rep: $101.26. Now in the Treasury, $32.42 which will be more than absorbed by several claims to be liquidated this Session.

§ 3. The Book of the Rec: Sec: the Com^ find kept with accuracy and neatness - although one important item in the duties of that Officer appears to have been neglected by the whole series of incumbents of the office. Art: X of the By-laws, Sect 6, requires that an Index to the Minutes of the Soc^y shall be kept in order to facilitate reference to Rules, Resolutions, and important transactions - Such an Index has never been kept.

§ 4. The Library. The appropriation of $30. for the increase of the Library, made in Aug: last, has been about one half expended, and during the same time one or two small donations of Books have been made.

Whether any Books belonging to the Library have been lost during the present administration, we do not know, and probably the point could not be ascertained without a close examination. We know not however, why such should not be the case. We know that the doors have been left unlocked for days together, and if there are any laws limiting the time which books shall be kept out they are a dead letter. They are frequently kept out for months, and not in the Soc^y merely, and in possession of those who draw them, but are lent in the neighbouring towns around to young ladies interested, as we suppose, in the cause of missions, and the fur trade at "Astoria", and the modern a^cps of "Egypt, Arabia Petrea, & the Holy Land". There is cause of complaint also in the total want of taste in the arrangement of the Books in the cases; parts of the same set are found on different shelves, and sometimes indeed in different cases. The labelling, lettering, and numbering, as well as the Catalogue, and the book for charging, are all slovenly, and unbusinesslike -

If any Apology is necessary for this statement of facts we are furnished with it in the necessity of the case, and our understanding of our duties, as defined by the Constitution.

All which is respectfully submitted

James Green

Chairman Standg Com

Semi-Annual Report of the Standing Com^e

Presented

April 1. 1839